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BORDER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1957



BORDER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

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and

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF, 1957

K. J. THOMSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., L.M., Medical Officer of Health and Assistant County Medical Officer.

J. S. WATSON, M.B.E., Cert. R.S.I., Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate, Chief Public Health Inspector and Housing Officer.

J. HILL, Cert. S.I.J.B., Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate. Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector.

H. WILSON, Cert. S.I.J.B., M.R.San.I., Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate. Additional Public Health Inspector.

BRIAN DAVISON, Trainee Public Health Inspector.

Appointed January, 1954.

BORDER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

5 Victoria Place,
Carlisle.

September, 1958.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Border Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I herewith submit my Annual Report on the health of the community for the year 1957.

The population, estimated by the Registrar General at mid-year was 29,440, being 540 less than in 1956. This unexpected fall was due to loss of Army personnel sent abroad during the Suez Crisis in the Autumn of 1956 and not replaced until the Summer of 1957.

The corrected Birth rate of 17.7 per 1,000 of the population was higher than the 15.8 figure for 1956 and compared with a rate of 16.1 for England and Wales.

The corrected Death rate of 12.6 per 1,000 of population was a little higher than the rate of 11.7 recorded in 1956 and compared with the National rate of 11.5.

The Infantile Mortality rate dropped to 17.7 per 1,000 live births compared with the high rate of 30.9 in 1956. The England and Wales rate for 1957 was 23.0.

Owing to a Country wide epidemic of Measles there was a marked increase in the total notifications of Infectious Diseases received during the year — indeed the number of Measles notifications at 688 was a record.

Only one case of Poliomyelitis was notified and I am glad to report that registration for Poliomyelitis Vaccination made great progress during the year although the actual number vaccinated was only 588. This was due to the fact that Vaccine was not available in sufficient amounts.

Details of improvements and extensions to water systems are given by the Engineer within the body of this report. It is disappointing to report however that no new sewerage works, or improvements to existing plants, were carried out during the year.

During the year 90 houses were built and full details of these and other housing matters are contained in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector and Housing Officer.

I should like to thank members of the Council for their continued interest and encouragement and all members of the Council Staff for their valuable help and co-operation during the year.

I am, Your obedient Servant,
K. J. THOMSON,
Medical Officer of Health.

**STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF
THE AREA.**

Area of District in Acres	...	...	...	248,860
Registrar General's estimate of resident population	...	...	...	29,440
Number of Inhabited Houses (according to Rate Book)	...	...	...	8,045
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£294,303
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	£1,190

Population:

The Registrar General's estimate of the population at mid-year 1957 was 29,440, being 540 less than in 1956. A fall to this extent was most unexpected as it will be noted from the table below that the average population figure over the previous five years was just over 30,000. It must be remembered that the population of the area includes Service

Personnel and on enquiry at Hadrian's Camp and the Ordnance Depot at Longtown I found that the explanation for the fall was simple. It was in fact due to the Suez Crisis in the Autumn of 1956 when between 600-700 men were sent abroad from these Military establishments and the numbers were not made up until the Summer of 1957. I feel, therefore, that so far as the Civilian population was concerned, there may actually have been a slight increase during 1957.

The following table gives the estimated population for the last ten years:

1948	...	28,500 Civilian only.
1949	...	29,660 Civilian and Service Personnel.
1950	...	29,220 Civilian and Service Personnel.
1951	...	28,720 Civilian and Service Personnel.
1952	...	30,200 Civilian and Service Personnel.
1953	...	30,070 Civilian and Service Personnel.
1954	...	29,940 Civilian and Service Personnel.
1955	...	30,040 Civilian and Service Personnel.
1956	...	29,980 Civilian and Service Personnel.
1957	...	29,440 Civilian and Service Personnel.

Agriculture and Dairy farming continue to be the main industries of the district. The manufacture of fabrics, calico, and woollen goods, together with brickworks, plaster and cement and quarrying absorb a considerable number of male and female workers.

In addition some hundreds of men and women are employed in the R.A.F. Maintenance Unit and Army depots within the area.

No new industry was introduced during the year and there was practically no unemployment. According to the Labour Exchange at no time did the unemployment figures rise above 1.6% of the employable population. This figure would, however, have been a little higher had it not been for the absorption of labour for the work of construction at the Spadeadam Rocket Testing Site.

VITAL STATISTICS

Births:

(a) Live Births	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	221	210	431
Illegitimate	11	11	22
Total	232	221	453

Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population 15.4
(Crude Rate)

Birth Rate corrected by Comparability factor 17.7.

(b) Still Births	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	9	5	14
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total	9	5	14

Rate per 1,000 total births 30.0.

The above figure compares with a rate of 25.5 in 1956.

Deaths:

	Males	Females	Total
Deaths, (all ages)	224	195	419
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of population			14.2
Corrected Death Rate per 1,000 of population			12.6
Deaths from Puerperal and Maternal Causes			Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total births			Nil

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of Age:

All infants per 1,000 live
births 17.7

There were no deaths of illegitimate infants.

Deaths from

Cancer	55
Measles	Nil

Whooping Cough	Nil
Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	Nil

The following table, showing the vital statistics for England and Wales and certain groups in the County of Cumberland for the year 1957, is given for comparison.

1957

	Crude Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate
England and Wales	16.1	11.5	23.0
Administrative County of Cumberland	17.9	12.1	26.4
Urban District of Cumberland (including Boroughs of Workington and Whitehaven)	18.8	12.2	25.8
Rural Districts of Cumberland ...	17.3	12.1	26.8
BORDER RURAL DISTRICT —			
CRUDE RATES	15.4	14.2	17.7
BORDER RURAL DISTRICT —			
CORRECTED RATES	17.7	12.6	17.7

Infantile Mortality:

There were 8 deaths of infants under one year of age giving an Infantile Mortality rate of 17.7 per 1,000 live births. This shows a marked decrease over the 1956 figure of 30.9 and compares favourably with the rate of 23.0 for England and Wales, and 26.4 for the County of Cumberland.

While it is pleasing to report a low Infantile Mortality rate in an Annual report one cannot make too much of this in the light of the very small numbers dealt with. A glance at the table below, giving rates from 1948-57, brings out this point very clearly. Whereas there has been a steady and continuous fall in the rate for England and Wales, the Border figures show considerable fluctuations from year to year.

Of the eight deaths seven were born and died in Hospital, only one death occurring at home, and even this baby had been born in Hospital. The sexes were equally affected. From the table given below it will be noted that Prematurity caused three deaths while congenital defects caused two deaths. Of the six deaths occurring in the first week five occurred within 48 hours of birth.

Details of Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age, 1957.

		Age in Weeks				Age in months					Total Deaths	
		Under 1 week.	1-2	2-3	3-4	Total under 1 month	1-2	2-3	3-6	6-9	9-12	
9	Prematurity ...	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	3
	Congenital Deformities	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	2
	Pulmonary Atelectasis	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
	Broncho Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
	Rhesus Incompatibility	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
TOTALS		6	—	—	—	6	—	—	1	1	—	8

Infantile Mortality Rate 1948-57.

Year	Border Rural District		Infantile Mortality Rate	
	Population	Total Deaths	Border R.D.	England and Wales
1948	28,500	16	29.9	34
1949	29,660	13	25	32
1950	29,220	27	35.9	29.8
1951	28,720	8	17.6	29.6
1952	30,200	12	28.2	27.6
1953	30,070	8	18.8	26.8
1954	29,940	16	37.4	25.5
1955	30,040	9	20.5	24.9
1956	29,980	13	30.9	23.8
1957	29,440	8	17.7	23.0

Maternal Mortality:

It is again pleasing to report that there were no maternal deaths during 1957.

Cancer Mortality:

According to the Registrar General's table there were 55 deaths from Cancer, including Leukaemia, giving a mortality rate of nearly 1.9 per 1,000 of the population and equal to 13.1% of all deaths. These rates are above those of 1956 when the corresponding figures were 1.5 per 1,000 and 11.4% of all deaths.

I have pointed out in previous reports that whereas Cancer mortality in England and Wales has shown a mounting rate each year, the rate in the Border area has remained below that of the whole Country and has shown little variation from year to year.

In addition to the 55 officially recorded Cancer deaths study of the Death returns showed that a further three males and three females suffered from Cancer. These deaths, however, were not included in the Cancer figure as some other acute condition had been recorded as the primary cause with Cancer as a contributory factor.

Taking this into account therefore a truer assessment shows that in 1957 there was a definite increase in Cancer mortality with the Border rate approaching closer to the National figure.

The average age at death of males was 62.7 years while that of females was 67 years.

Location of Disease:

<i>Alimentary System:</i>						<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Oesophagus	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Stomach	...	...	...	...	...	3	3
Bowel	...	...	...	...	...	5	6
Pancreas	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Liver	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Gall Bladder	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
<i>Reproductive System:</i>							
Breast	...	...	...	...	...	—	4
Other sites	...	...	...	...	...	—	3
<i>Genito-Urinary:</i>							
Kidney	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
Bladder	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
Prostate	...	...	...	...	...	6	—
<i>Respiratory System:</i>							
Lungs and Bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	4	2
<i>Other Sites:</i>							
(including Lymphatic Neoplasms	...	...	...	...	...	5	4
						30	25
						—	—

Deaths from all Causes:

The number of deaths recorded during the year was 453, being an increase of 33 over the 1956 figure, giving a crude death rate of 14.2 per thousand of population. By using the area comparability factor (a figure worked out by the Registrar General) the corrected death rate works out at 12.6 compared with a corrected rate of 11.7 in 1956. There was, therefore, a slight increase in the death rate, this being undoubtedly due to the Influenza epidemic which occurred during the Autumn of 1957, particularly as it affected patients in Garlands Hospital. In previous years the deaths in Gar-

lands Hospital accounted for 21% of the total deaths occurring in the Border Area, whereas in 1957 this figure rose to 24.1%.

Diseases of the Heart and the Circulatory System accounted for the greatest number of deaths, namely 206, equal to 49% of all deaths compared with 44% in 1956. The percentage of such deaths is much higher than that of the Country as a whole and has been so for some years. As has been pointed out in previous reports this high rate of such deaths in the Border area is due chiefly to the fact that of all Garlands deaths a very high percentage was due to diseases of the Heart and Circulatory System, e.g. in 1957, such deaths accounted for 57%, the same as occurred in 1956. During 1957, therefore, there was an increase of deaths from Heart conditions in the general population of the area.

Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System—i.e. Cerebral Haemorrhage and Thrombosis accounted for 57 deaths — equivalent to 13.6% of all deaths. This figure compares with 17.8% in 1956 and is below the Country average.

Cancer Deaths. According to the Registrar General there were 55 Cancer Deaths equal to 13.1% of all deaths, and compared with a rate of 11.4% in 1956. There was, therefore an increase in Cancer deaths during the year, but on careful scrutiny of all deaths returns there was a greater increase of deaths from Cancer than indicated by the Registrar General's figures. I have already referred to this point earlier in the report.

Diseases of the Respiratory System, excluding Tuberculosis, accounted for 18 deaths equal to 4.3% of total deaths. This figure was below the National rate and apart from 1956 when the rate was 7%, is in keeping with the usual low rate in the Border area.

Deaths from Motor Vehicle Accidents amounted to 7, one more than in 1956, while all other accidents numbered 13, being two more than the previous year. During the past few years there has been a slight upward trend in such deaths in common with the rest of the Country.

Age at Death. All Causes, 1957.

		Under 1 yr.	1—4	5—9	10—14	15—19	20—24	25—29	30—34	35—39	40—44	45—49	50—54	55—59	60—64	65—69	70—74	75—79	80 & over	Total
Males		4	1	—	—	2	3	2	1	1	4	8	14	14	24	36	39	38	33	224
Females		4	4	1	—	—	1	2	1	1	2	4	4	10	18	26	24	36	57	195
Total		8	5	1	--	2	4	4	2	2	6	12	18	24	42	62	63	74	90	419

Note: 69% of all deaths were in the age group of 65 years and over while 39% were 75 years or older at the time of death.

Causes of Death as given by the Registrar General, 1957.

					Male	Female	Total
1.	Tuberculosis—Respiratory	...	...	...	2	2	4
2.	Tuberculosis—Other	...	...	...	—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic Disease	...	...	...	3	1	4
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal Infection	...	...	...	—	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	1	1
8.	Measles	...	...	...	—	—	—
9.	Other Infective and Parasite Diseases	...	...	...	—	—	—
10.	Malignant Neoplasm—Stomach	...	...	...	3	3	6
11.	Malignant Neoplasm—Lung, Bronchus	...	...	...	4	2	6
12.	Malignant Neoplasm—Breast	...	...	...	—	4	4
13.	Malignant Neoplasm—Uterus	...	...	...	—	—	—
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	...	...	...	22	15	37
15.	Leukaemia. Aleukaemia	...	...	...	1	1	2
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	1	2	3
17.	Vascular lesion of the Nervous System	...	...	...	35	22	57
18.	Coronary Disease—Angina	...	...	...	38	17	55
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	...	...	4	3	7
20.	Other Heart Diseases	...	...	...	57	67	124
21.	Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	10	10	20
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	2	5	7
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	4	3	7
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	4	4	8
25.	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	...	...	...	3	—	3
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	—	—	—
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	...	...	...	1	—	1
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	...	2	3	5
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	...	3	—	3
30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	...	...	...	—	—	—
31.	Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	2	2	4
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	6	22	28
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	...	6	1	7
34.	All other Accidents	...	...	...	8	5	13
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	3	—	3
36.	Homicide and Operations of War	...	...	...	—	—	—
All causes					224	195	419

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Laboratory Services.

The necessary facilities continue to be provided by the Public Health Laboratory service at the Cumberland Infirmary. Dr. J. S. Faulds is the Consultant Pathologist while Dr. D. G. Davies is in charge of all the Bacteriological work.

I would again record my grateful thanks to these Consultants and their staff for the excellent co-operation and help so willingly given during the year.

Ambulance Facilities.

The County Council, as the Local Health Authority, provides and administers all Ambulance services. An ambulance based at Kirkclinton serves the Northern area while the rest of the district is served from Carlisle. In addition an Infectious Disease ambulance is provided at Longtown Hospital and "Sitting Case" cars are available throughout the district.

Nursing in the Home.

The County Council provides all the necessary services including District Nurses, Midwives, Health Visitors and Home Helps. There are now 44 of the latter on the Register, this being seven more than in 1956

Clinics and Treatment Centres:

There has been no change in such facilities, there being two County Clinics in the area, namely:—

Union Lane, Brampton, and 14 Portland Square, Carlisle.
Clinics are held as follows:—

School Clinics.	Child Welfare and Immunisation Clinics.
<i>Brampton</i> —1st and 3rd Fridays, 10—12 noon.	1st and 3rd Fridays. 2—4 p.m.
<i>Carlisle</i> —2nd and 4th Wednesdays. 10—12 noon.	2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 2—4 p.m.

In addition, Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat and Orthopaedic Specialist Clinics are held at 14 Portland Square at regular intervals throughout the year.

Dental Clinics are also held at Brampton, Longtown and Carlisle every week.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supplies:

The practice of routine bacteriological examination of the fifteen separate supplies owned by the Border Council was maintained, together with frequent inspections of the gathering grounds.

A total of 105 samples was taken over the year with results as shown below: —

Excellent	...	...	...	89 = 84.8%
Unsatisfactory	...	...	...	16 = 15.2%
Total				105

In addition several samples were taken for full chemical analysis and all were satisfactory.

I am indebted to Mr. W. Skerry, Engineer and Surveyor, for the following report on Water and Sewerage matters.

Water:

Improvements and extensions to supplies over the past year include the following:

1. Roughton Gill.

This short extension of mains from Longstrumble Road end below Cotehill to Wray-side was completed during the year. This small extension was to alleviate poor conditions which have obtained in the Wetheral Shields area for some time.

2. Hethersgill.

Following the laying of a new mains from Ullermire reservoir to Longtown in the previous year, link mains have been completed between (a) Brownrigg and Scaleby Hill and (b) Fir End School and Wide-open-Dykes. The provision of these link mains had the effect of improving the poor supply generally obtaining in the Scaleby Hill and Blackford districts.

3. Low Row.

A small extension to augment the supply at Low Row by the addition of extra springs was commenced during the year.

Particulars of Water Supplied

PARISH	No. of Houses in Parish	Direct to Houses		By means of public Standpipes	
		No. of Houses Supplied	Population Supplied	No. of Houses Supplied	Population Supplied
Arthuret ..	761	742	2,725		
Askerton ...	49	20	180		
**Beaumont ...	126				
Bewcastle ...	154	75	276		
Brampton ...	1,019	942	3,262	27	100
**Burgh-by-Sands	243				
Burtholme ...	75	60	220		
Carlatton ...	11	7	26		
Castle Carrock	101	86	316	3	11
*Cummerdale ...	203	4	15		
Cumrew ...	22	12	44		
Cumwhitton ...	99	66	242		
Dalston ...	728	708	2,605	18	65
Denton Nether	96	47	170	1	6
Denton Upper	38	11	41	4	14
Farlam ...	253	243	895		
Geltsdale ...	2	No Supply			
Hayton ...	434	378	1,390	24	87
Hethersgill ...	143	129	473		
Irthington ...	223	201	740	6	22
*Kingmoor ...	93	58	214	9	33
Kingwater ...	59	16	59		

Kirkandrews ...	221	202	743		
Kirklington ...	91	77	284		
Midgeholme ...	44	25	92	9	33
Nicholforest ...	144	57	210		
Orton ...	122	121	445		
*Rockcliffe ...	247	200	735	6	22
*St. Cuthberts ...	478	299	1,100	13	48
Scaleby ...	93	84	309		
Solport ...	62	24	89		
*Stanwix ...	366	69	254	8	29
Stapleton ...	86	66	243		
Walton ...	99	59	217	9	33
Waterhead ...	55	10	37		
Westlinton ...	102	92	338		
*Wetheral ...	1,263	839	3,096	23	86

**Parishes wholly supplied by the Corporation of Carlisle in their Statutory Area.

*Parishes partly supplied by the Corporation of Carlisle.

SEWERAGE

1. Brampton.

A scheme for a new sewage disposal works has been approved by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and it is anticipated that work will commence in the Spring of 1958.

Notifications of Infectious Diseases, 1957—Age Groups.

Diseases	—1	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	55—	65—	T	AH	D
Measles	...	16	47	81	76	60	358	39	6	3	1	—	1	688	5	—
Whooping Cough	...	7	9	7	7	12	28	1	—	—	—	—	—	71	—	—
Poliomyelitis	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—
Primary or Influenzal																
Pneumonia	...	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	4	2	4	2	18	4	3
Erysipelas	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
Food Poisoning (Salmonella)	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Acute Encephalitis	Post															
Infectious	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
TOTALS	24	56	88	84	73	390	40	6	6	10	2	5	4	3	11	3

Key: T — Total

AH — Admitted to Isolation Hospital

D — Death

Notifications of Infectious Diseases 1941-57

	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Measles ...	190	181	212	58	288	48	115	201	269	42	320	86	420	232	196	25	688
Scarlet Fever ...	14	16	21	98	41	16	14	28	78	46	16	19	35	18	15	2	3
Whooping Cough ..	150	9	21	64	34	31	20	56	41	58	23	32	44	21	34	31	71
Pneumonia ...	27	14	14	24	23	13	12	7	4	9	14	6	5	13	9	17	18
Dysentery ...	76	33	8	1	5	6	—	2	—	12	—	4	1	3	10	16	—
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	2	1	1	4	1
Meningococcal Meningitis	15	6	3	2	1	1	2	1	—	1	—	2	1	4	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	7	40	51	37	29	3	2	1	1	—	—	4	1	—	—	—	1
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	1	—	—	2	—	—	14	1	1	3	—	5	10	2	—	4	1
Erysipelas ...	11	14	7	6	5	2	1	4	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Acute Encephalitis																	
Post Infectious ...	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
TOTALS	491	313	337	292	426	122	181	302	396	172	373	163	519	294	175	99	785

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Owing to a Country-wide epidemic of Measles during 1957, total notifications of infectious diseases reached the figure of 785, the highest for many years, in sharp contrast to the very low figure of 99 in 1956.

Measles.

A total of 688 cases was notified, the highest for many years — indeed it would seem that this total probably constituted an all time high for the Border area as judged by available records.

The epidemic commenced in the South of England in November, 1956, but did not reach epidemic proportions in the Border district until February-March, 1957. A high rate of notification continued through April and May but fell during June and July, and after September, no further cases were notified. The bulk of cases occurred in the 5 year plus age group (358) and the pre-school age (280). It will be noted from the table that several adults were also affected.

The epidemic commenced in the Dalston-Cummersdale area in the beginning of the year and spread to the Longtown district by the beginning of March. Thereafter cases were notified from the whole Border area.

To my knowledge at least five cases were admitted to Hospital owing to chest or other complications but fortunately there were no recorded deaths from the disease.

Whooping Cough.

Seventy-one cases were notified, more than double the figure for 1956 and the highest figure for many years as will be noted from the appropriate table below. No case required to be admitted to Hospital and there were no deaths.

Scarlet Fever.

Only three cases occurred, being one more than in 1956.

For a considerable number of years past this disease has become less important as a serious menace to child health. Twenty years ago practically all cases of Scarlet fever were admitted to Hospital where most remained for 4-6 weeks and many were discharged home with serious and disabling after effects. Today it is the exception to admit a case to Hospital, and with modern treatment few suffer any ill effects and are back in circulation within 2-3 weeks.

This improvement by treatment with such drugs as penicillin and the sulphonamide group is only part of the Scarlet story however. It would appear that the particular organism which causes the disease has lost its virulence and does not now give rise to the serious complications which once it was capable of doing. Why this has occurred no one can say and it may be that one day this virulence will return.

Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia.

Eighteen cases were notified being one more than in 1956. Eleven cases were of the Influenzal type and were notified in October and November during the height of the Influenza epidemic. Four cases were admitted to Hospital and there were three deaths.

Acute Poliomyelitis.

One case of Paralytic Poliomyelitis was notified during the year. The patient — a married woman of 29 years — was notified early in January, 1957, and was the last of four cases which occurred in the Scaleby-Kirklington area during December, 1956. She was the mother of a schoolboy who had been a close contact of the first two cases notified in December, 1956. This boy, although showing no symptoms of the disease, was found to be harbouring the virus of Poliomyelitis and was undoubtedly the cause of his mother's infection.

On admission to Hospital this patient had extensive paralysis of the left shoulder and arm as well as a degree of paralysis of right arm. On discharge some weeks later, the right arm had recovered very well but the left arm remained extensively paralysed and unfortunately has remained so.

Poliomyelitis Vaccination.

The registration and vaccination of certain age groups, commenced in 1956, continued during 1957 but the total number actually vaccinated was most disappointing due to the fact that vaccine was not available in sufficient amounts. Registration for vaccination however showed a marked increase reaching a figure in the region of 75% of those eligible for vaccination as against less than 10% in 1956.

The position as at 31.12.57 is shown in the following table:

	Year	born	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	Total
Registered	...	...	26	282	316	311	297	328	351	377	390	403	440	113	134	150	122	4040
Vaccinated (both injections)		—	—	—	—	59	54	65	65	90	70	83	102	—	—	—	—	588
Vaccinated (one injection)		—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	5

At the time of writing this report (July, 1958) total registrations were well over 5,000 and over 4,000 of these had completed the course of two injections.

Food Poisoning.

One case only was notified due to the Salmonella Newport Organism. Despite intensive investigation the source of this infection was not discovered but several other members of the household were found to be infected with the same organism while remaining entirely free of symptoms.

Erysipelas.

A young soldier of 25 years of age from Hadrian's Camp was the only case of this condition notified during the year. He was treated in the Camp Sick Quarters.

Acute Encephalitis.

A male child aged 7 years was admitted to Hospital with symptoms suggestive of brain infection following an attack of Measles. The diagnosis of Encephalitis was not confirmed however.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

One mild case was notified and treated at home. With so many mothers-to-be now admitted to Hospital for confinement there has been a marked drop in notification of this condition.

Smallpox.

No case of Smallpox or known contact occurred in the district.

Again I have to report a disappointing rate of primary vaccination in infants and in the population generally as is shown in the following table.

Vaccination against Smallpox:—

	—1 yr.	1 yr.	2-4 yrs.	5-14 yrs.	15 yrs. +	Total
Primary	279	2	10	5	2	298
Revaccinations	—	—	2	17	52	71

The above figures show a slight improvement over the 1956 vaccinations but are still too low.

Diphtheria.

For the ninth successive year no case of Diphtheria occurred in the area and it is now eleven years since a death was recorded from this disease.

During 1957 the following number of children were immunised in the Border district:—

Primary Immunisations — all ages ...	331
Reinforcement or Booster injections ...	357

Diphtheria—Notifications and Deaths, 1944-1957.

Year	England and Wales		Border District	
	Notifications	Deaths	Notifications	Deaths
1944 ...	23,199	934	28	3
1945 ...	18,596	722	14	1
1946 ..	11,986	472	8	1
1947 ...	5,609	244	—	—
1948 ...	3,575	156	3	—
1949 ...	1,890	84	—	—
1950 ...	962	49	—	—
1951 ...	664	33	—	—
1952 ...	376	32	—	—
1953 ...	266	23	—	—
1954 ...	173	9	—	—
1955 ...	155	13	—	—
1956 ...	51	8	—	—
1957 (Provisional)	37	6	—	—

Influenza.

Although Influenza, as such, is not notifiable, Influenzal Pneumonia is, and as already mentioned in the paragraph on Pneumonia, eleven such notifications were received with three deaths. In addition there were seven deaths from Influenza apart from the quite considerable number of deaths from other causes where Influenza was given as a contributory factor.

The Influenza epidemic which commenced in the Far East in the Spring of 1957 reached the British Isles in August

and first affected the Border area in September, reaching its peak in October and November. In many of the rural schools absentee rates of over 50% were common, affecting teachers and children alike. Industry too suffered considerably as it was estimated that 30-40% of the working population suffered from the disease during the epidemic period.

TUBERCULOSIS

The following table gives particulars of new cases added to the Tuberculosis register and of deaths from Tuberculosis during 1957.

	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 — 1 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 — 5 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 — 15 years	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
15 — 25 years	1	4	—	1	—	—	—	—
25 — 35 years	3	5	—	—	—	1	—	—
35 — 45 years	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
45 — 55 years	3	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
55 — 65 years	2	2	1	—	1	1	—	—
65 and upwards	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	14	16	3	2	2	2	—	—

Of the 35 cases added to the register, 9 were inward transfers, i.e. cases already notified elsewhere in England and Wales but who had moved into the Border area during the year. In addition 4 others came from Scotland, Ireland and Australia, where they had already been notified, but according to regulations had to be counted as new cases in the Border area.

Seven of the new cases were in-patients in Garlands Hospital at the date of notification.

There were 4 recorded deaths, all pulmonary, being 2 less than in 1956, and giving a rate of 0.13 per 1,000 of the population. The rate for England and Wales was 0.10 per 1,000.

In addition to the above deaths, two patients in Garlands Hospital, who were notified cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, died of Influenzal Broncho-pneumonia.

The following table gives the number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at December, 1957.

				Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary	...	...	...	134	101	235
Non-Pulmonary	...	...	...	26	33	59
				260	134	294

The above total is 20 more than in 1956. Although there were 35 new cases added during the year, 15 were removed for the following reasons: Died, 5; Diagnosis not confirmed, 2; Left the district, 8.

Prevention of Tuberculosis.

The Mass Radiography Unit, under the able direction of Dr. W. H. Morton, Consultant Chest Physician, paid visits to the area as in former years. Unfortunately the visit to No. 14 Maintenance Unit R.A.F. had to be cancelled at the last minute with the result that the total number X-rayed in 1957 was well below that of previous years. Nevertheless out of 2,739 people X-rayed by this means three new cases of active pulmonary tuberculosis were discovered, equivalent to 109 new cases per 100,000 examinations. In America a mass radiography survey is considered well worth while if 40 new cases are found per 100,000 examinations.

I would again stress how very important it is for all adults, both young and old, to avail themselves of this free X-ray service and have a chest X-ray taken every year.

Mass Radiography Unit—Summary of Findings, 1957.

Area Visited	Total Number x-rayed.	New active cases	Inactive cases	Other Abnor- malities
Longtown including C.A.D.	1,159	2	16	57
Brampton	631	—	1	16
Garlands Hospital	859	1	43	48
Edmond Castle School	71	—	—	—
Border R.D.C. Staff	19	—	—	—
TOTALS	2,739	3	60	121

B.C.G. Vaccination.

The B.C.G. vaccination of the 13-14 year old age group of school children was continued during the year and the following two tables show the work done in the Border Rural Schools: —

Scheme of B.C.G. Vaccination for 13/14 year Age Group (1943). Mass Miniature Radiography. Border Rural Area up to and including December 31st, 1957.

School	Total number of children in 1943 age group as shown on Nominal Roll.	Total number of children in 1943 age group who had M.M.R. Report		Total number of Consents given for B.C.G. Vaccination	Total number of Children in 1943 age group with satisfactory M.M.R.		Total number of children in 1943 age group with unsatisfactory M.M.R Report and recalled for Large Film.	
					Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Brampton Grammar	34	30		29	30		—	—
Irthing Valley	89	79		65	76		3	—
Bewcastle Park	4	—		3	—		—	—
Bewcastle Bailey	5	3		2	3		—	—
Longtown	44	44		31	42		2	—
Warwicksland	7	7		4	7		—	—
Eden	69	59		54	57		2	—
Burgh-by-Sands	15	12		8	12		—	—
Carlisle & County High	22	21		19	20		1	—
Total	289	255(88.2%)		215 (74.4%)	247(85.5%)		8(2.8%)	—

**Results of Mantoux Testing and B.C.G. Vaccination for children in 13/14 year age group (1943) in Border
Rural Area up to and including 31st December, 1957.**

School	Number of Children Mantoux tested	Number absent after first Mantoux test	Number found to be Mantoux Positive	Number found to be Mantoux Negative	Number given B.C.G. Vaccination
Brampton Granmar	28	—	7	21	21
Irthing Valley	61	1	11	49	49
Bewcastle Park	3	—	—	3	3
Bewcastle Bailey	2	1	—	1	1
Longtown	30	—	3	27	27
Warwicksland	4	—	—	4	4
Eden	51	1	16	34	34
Burgh by Sands	8	—	—	8	8
Carlisle and County High	19	—	8	11	11
Total	206	3 (1.5 %)	45 (21.8 %)	158 (76.7 %)	158 (76.7 %)

National Assistance Act, 1948.

No action was necessary under Section 47 of the above Act.

Ten old persons however were reported to me as in possible need of care and attention. I visited them all and found it necessary to have three admitted to Hospital but fortunately was able to persuade them to go as voluntary patients. The other seven cases were kept under supervision and four of these were provided with Home Helps through the County Council Welfare Service.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND HOUSING OFFICER

For the Year Ending 31st December, 1957.

To the Border Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Twenty-fourth Annual Report:

NOTICES SERVED.

The number of Notices served during the year was:

	Formal	Informal
Public Health Act	3	18
Housing Act	38	0
Food and Drugs Act	—	2
Prevention of Damage by Pests Acts	—	—
	41	20

HOUSING

New Buildings

During the year 57 houses were completed by the Council and 33 by private enterprise, a total of 90.

The Council's building activities are now almost wholly confined to that required to replace unfit houses and the provision of small houses for old people, the only two categories which qualify for exchequer subsidy. Although there is still a demand in various parts of the district for houses for ordinary needs it is difficult to see how this demand can be met in view of absence of subsidies and the Government's restriction on the number of houses to be built.

The acquisition of sites at Longtown and Brampton is proceeding. Building is expected to start with 56 houses at Longtown early in 1958 and at Brampton later in that year.

Details as at 31st December, 1957:—

Place					No. in course of erection	No. erected
Dalston	...	...	...	...	—	5
Cargo	...	...	...	...	—	4
Blackwell	...	...	...	...	—	4
Great Corby	...	...	...	...	—	24
Longtown	...	...	...	...	—	20
Laversdale	...	...	...	...	10	—
					—	—
					10	57
Private Building	...	...	...	...	35	33
					—	—
					45	90
					—	—

Housing Acts, 1949-57—Improvement Grants.

Applications received and approved are more than half as many again as last year.

Details of applications during 1957

Applications Received — 40 in respect of 42 houses.

Applications Approved — 35 in respect of 37 houses.

Value of works approved — £27,322.

Value of grants approved — £10,256.

Improvements completed during the year — 28 in respect of 30 houses.

Progress to date from Inception of Act.

170 applications in respect of 190 houses.

158 approved in respect of 177 houses.

Improvements completed to 137 houses.

Value of works approved — £118,462.

Value of grants approved — £46,715.

Slum Clearance.

38 individual unfit houses were dealt with during the year and where necessary all tenants were rehoused.

Drainage and Water Closets.

The number of new drainage systems and water closets provided in place of earth closets, privies, etc., is 76. 21 of these are drained to the Council's sewers and 37 to cesspools. In addition, 18 systems previously draining to cesspools have now been connected to the Council's sewers.

Water Supplies.

The number of existing houses provided with a water supply from the Council's mains is 21.

Camping Sites and Moveable Dwellings.

The number of Camping Sites licensed under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, is now 5, two new sites having been licensed during the year. These have been required as a result of workers arriving in the district in connection with construction work at Spadeadam.

In addition, 9 licences were issued to station moveable dwellings.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Licences issued during the year:—

Dealers' Licences — Tuberculin Tested	...	...	5
Dealers' Supplementary Licences—Tuberculin Tested			7
Dealers' Licences — Pasteurised	...	...	3
Dealers' Supplementary Licences—Pasteurised	...		5
Dealers' Licences — Sterilised	...	...	1
Dealers' Supplementary Licences — Sterilised	...	...	1

Ice Cream.

Ice cream is manufactured and retailed at one premises and retailed only at 34 other premises within the district.

Manufacture of Preserved Foods

Three premises are registered for the manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, packed or preserved food under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. This is the same as last year.

Slaughterhouses and Inspection of Meat.

Six slaughterhouses were licensed during 1957.

Results of inspections carried out in Slaughterhouses during the year, 1957:

	Cattle excluding Cows		Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Numbers inspected ...	334	8	1,215	187
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis:</i>				
Whole carcasses condemned	1 calf	2	14	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	178	5	114	6
Percentage	53.29	87.5	9.38	3.21
<i>Tuberculosis only:</i>				
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	—	—	—	2
Percentage.	—	—	—	1.55
<i>Cysticercus Bovis only:</i>				
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	7	—	—	—
Carcases submitted for treatment by refrigeration	7	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—
Percentage	2.05	—	—	—

A total of 5,968 lb. of meat was condemned.

Food Unfit for Human Consumption.

In addition to meat condemned as a result of inspections made at all slaughterhouses operating in the district throughout the year, the following foodstuffs were condemned in shops and stores:

Canned Pressed Veal and Pork	...	8 lbs.
Kippers		82 lbs.
Canned Chopped Pork		4 lbs.
Canned Cooked Ham		14½ lbs.
Canned Red Salmon		9 lbs.

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

Improvements where necessary continue to be made at Food Premises.

Knackers' Yards.

There are two Knackers' Yards in the district which are licensed annually. They have been conducted in a satisfactory manner.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act—Rodent Control.

During the year an attempt has been made to survey as many Agricultural properties as possible. About a quarter of the holdings were visited, but the large number of such holdings in the district (approximately 1,700) added to the very large area covered make the number visited the maximum possible.

Of these, a relatively small number were found to be infested to any marked degree. The majority of farmers were found to be using Warfarin poison with apparently satisfactory results and where there have been heavier infestations a number of farmers have made use of the facilities for treatment offered by the Council. Private Householders are generally willing to use the service wherever infestations are found at the very reasonable nominal charge of 15/- per house. It has not been necessary during the year to serve any Statutory Notices.

The Council's Sewerage Works and Refuse Tips are regularly visited. The following inspections were made during the year by the Council's Rodent Operator.

Local Authority Premises	...	...	...	146
Dwelling Houses	...	...	...	38
Agricultural Premises	...	...	...	493
All other Premises	...	...	...	54

Refuse Collection.

During the year there has been no significant change in the areas of collection and allowing for houses going out of use and new buildings, the number of houses from which refuse is collected is approximately 6,700.

During 1958 it may be possible to take in further areas in the north of the district.

The cost of this service continues to increase due largely to increased wages and running expenses of vehicles. The average cost of collection is 27/8 per house per annum.

Several tips are almost full and soon new tips will be required. I would advise the Council when suitable sites are located that they be bought where possible.

There has been a welcome increase in the amount of waste paper collected and disposed of.

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE AND RECEIPTS FROM REFUSE COLLECTION AND SALVAGE

Year Ended 31st March, 1958.

EXPENDITURE:				£	s.	d.
Wages	...	...	...	5,519	13	10
Refuse Tips, Rents and Maintenance				448	19	2
Vehicles	...	...	...	3,032	2	1
Advertising	...	...	...	8	14	0
Scotby Depot—proportion of expenses				481	18	9
Baling Expenses	..	...	...	18	19	5
Other expenses	...	...	.	137	1	11
				9,647 9 2		
INCOME:						
Sale of Salvage (nett)	.	...	...	359	3	1
Miscellaneous Income	...	...	...	17	3	10
				376 6 11		
				£9,271 2 3		

Salvage collected was as follows:—

Paper—40 tons, 13 cwts, 2 qtr.

STATISTICAL TABLE

- 1 Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year:—
 1. (a) Total number of dwellings inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts). ... 462
 - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 668
 2. Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation (number remaining to be dealt with under Housing Programme) ... 405
 3. Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 18
- 2 Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices:—

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers.	16
1 Action under Statutory Powers during the year:	
(a) Proceedings under Section 9, 16 and 18 of the Housing Act, 1957	—
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	—
(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners	—
(b) Local Authority in default of owners	—
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—	
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	3
(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners	3
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	3
(c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	5
(2) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	5
(3) Closing Orders made (Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions Act,) 1953)	20
(4) Number of houses in respect of which undertakings have been given by owners	7
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	—
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit.	—
4 Housing Act, 1936—Part IV. Overcrowding:—	
(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	27
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	31
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	161
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	7
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.	5
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	31

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

Houses inspected under Housing Acts and Public Health Acts	668
Houses inspected re proposals for re-conditioning	19
Houses inspected re dirty conditions	6
Houses inspected re water supply	5
Houses inspected under Housing Act, 1949 re Improvements	
Grants	239
Houses inspected for Subsidy under Housing (Financial Pro-	
visions) Acts	30
Nuisances	78
Existing Drainage Systems	52
Proposals for new drainage works	83
New drainage works inspected and tested	134
Piggeries	2
Water Courses	4
Tents, vans and Camping Sites	30
Infectious disease inquiries	7
Verminous Premises	4
Refuse Tips and Investigating refuse complaints	76
Knackers Yards	12
Water Sampling (for Bacteriological Examination)	105
Public Conveniences	15
Dangerous Buildings	6
Visits in connection with Certificates of Disrepair	4
Factory Acts.	14
Shops Acts.	21
Food Premises	42
Ice Cream Premises	5
Milk and Dairies Regulations	13
Milk Sampling	12
Unsound Food	3
Licensed Premises	5
Meat Inspection	393
Inspections under Prevention of Damage by Pests Acts.	8
Petroleum Regulations	17
Visits paid to Housing Applicants	406
Council House Repairs	441
Visits in connection with Management of Housing Estates	189
Council Property	10
Cinemas	1
Visits re provision of Litter Baskets	7
Demolition of Camps	8
Miscellaneous	27

I am, Your obedient Servant,

J. S. WATSON,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

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